

Alpine Meadow

A fine piece of chalk grassland in a wooded valley within the unspoilt Ashridge Woodlands.

The chalk grassland is rich in wildflowers and butterflies from spring to autumn. Primroses flourish around the woodland edge in spring and, later on, mouse-ear hawkweed, fairy flax and common spotted orchids can be seen. The warm sloping grassland attracts many insects in the summer, including the marbled white butterfly which is uncommon in Hertfordshire.

The woodland to the south of the meadow supports birds such as green woodpeckers, finches and goldcrests which can be seen busily feeding in the winter months.

Alpine Meadow is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Trust works with the owners, the National Trust, on its management.

The species rich grassland is maintained by being cut and raked by the Wildlife Trust twice a year. The tree line on the southern side is gradually being pushed back to encourage more grassland.

Autumn

The annual meadow cut and rake took place at the end of September, which helps to prevent brambles, scrub and coarse grasses from dominating the chalk grassland. With the warm weather continuing into October there were many common lizards basking around the meadow.

Many different species of bird have been seen on the reserve this year, including cuckoo, garden warbler, chiffchaff, blackcap, siskin and goldcrest. Winter visitors include redwings and fieldfare and there can be large flocks of skylark and meadow pipits flying over.

- [Get driving directions](#)
- [Find nearby public transport](#)

How to Get Here

Location

Berkhamsted

Directions

Park near Bridgewater school, Berkhamsted and take the footpath to the left of the main entrance. Follow this through a gate and carry on walking along the edge of the farmland until you reach a second gate. As you walk down the meadow a gate on the left half way down leads you into a plantation. Alpine Meadow is found at the bottom of the valley

Public Transport Links

No public transport

Walking Links

Map Reference

Visitor Guide

Size

0.8 hectares

Access to site

Open access

Access around site

Fooopath leads though the centre of the meadow

Walking time

1.5-2 hours

Advice on what to wear/bring

Outdoor footwear

Map of site (if available)